# Daily Report

# Latin America

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## Cuba

### Roberto Robaina Receives Foreign Minister Appointment

*FL3003190293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Roberto Robaina Gonzalez has been appointed Cuba's foreign minister. This is the text of the note issued by the Council of State:

The appointment of Comrade Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada to head the National Assembly of the People's Government created a vacancy in the foreign minister post. Therefore, the Council of State, following a proposal of the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], has agreed to appoint Comrade Roberto Robaina Gonzalez to this post. The Council of State believes that Comrade Robaina Gonzalez meets all the necessary qualifications to successfully carry out the new duties assigned by the PCC and the Revolution. In the face of this need of the country, the National Directorate of the Union of Young Communist must now release Comrade Roberto Robaina from the functions which he presently carries out in this organization and elect a replacement.

### Appointment 'Ratifies' Youth Policy

*FL3003233093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Through its foreign minister's appointment, Cuba exhibits its policy of advancing young people. Today's designation of youth leader Roberto Robaina as foreign minister ratifies the Cuban Government's policy of promoting young people to the nation's highest positions, which has been the policy systematically maintained over the past few years. The renewal this month of over 50 percent of the Cuban legislature, as well as its rejuvenation, constitutes evidence of trust [la seguridad] in the training of new generations. The average age of the members of the legislature, which was formed on 15 March, is 43—one of the lowest in the world.

In the case of Robaina, his successes as a student and youth leader and at other tasks entrusted to him by the nation's top leadership, portended greater responsibilities for him in the immediate future. Also, the current Council of State has six members—Robaina among them—whose average ages are lower than the average age of the members of the legislature. One of these, Carlos Lage, is a vice president of the Council of State.

### Cuban Airline Captain Applies for U.S. Asylum in Bahamas

*FL3003205693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2011 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, March 30, CANA—A captain of the Cuban national airline, Cubana, has applied to the United States Embassy in The Bahamas for political asylum after piloting a scheduled flight here on Sunday night.

Mark Krischik, head of U.S. Information Service here, confirmed that the Cuban asked the embassy for political asylum on Monday, but declined to give details. Asked if the man would be given political asylum, Krischik said the matter had not yet been resolved. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was contacted by the U.S. Embassy about the defection, declined to elaborate.

According to reports, the Cuban has made contact with a radio station in Miami. After landing at Nassau International Airport Sunday night, the captain said the fire-fighting equipment aboard the Russian aircraft was not working and that he would be unable to return to Cuba that night, an informed source who asked not to be identified said.

The captain and two other crew members, all of whom were reportedly penniless, were taken to the Poop Deck, a harbourside restaurant, for dinner, and were put up at the Pilot House Hotel across the street for the night, said the source. Another plane was to be sent to Nassau the following morning to pick up the crew, which totalled five. The plane arrived about noon, but left with everyone except the captain. The captain is at an undisclosed location in Nassau.

### Alarcon Lists Issues on Agenda for ANPP Meeting

*FL3003152393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] In the new strategy being employed by the nation's government bodies, nothing is outside anyone's sphere of activity. Things are administered within the concept of an overall whole.

The role of the people's councils and the performance of the energy program will be priority topics for discussion by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] at its next session. This was announced at the seminar on the functioning of the assemblies of the people's government and the administration councils of Havana City Province.

[Begin Ricardo Alarcon recording, identified by caption] We are thinking about analyzing, at the next ANPP session, certain key matters connected with the nation's economic situation. I think the energy program—the energy matter, which is perhaps the most difficult thing our economy is facing—should be one of the topics to be analyzed at the ANPP. Another issue is the analysis of the people's councils, which are, at the present time, absolutely irreplaceable instruments of the people's government at the base level. I think it is important for us to thoroughly analyze these councils, to exchange experiences, and to support their future work. [end recording]

At the seminar, it was determined that the administration council is a change in the understanding of, and in the work style of, the governing bodies. The goal is to define the functions of the people's government as an overseer and monitor, and the administrative entity, which would be the council.

[Begin Alarcon recording] But in addition to this, the administration council brings closer the handling of problems by eliminating intermediaries, eliminating the bureaucratic character that existed and that has been thoroughly analyzed in today's meeting. That is, it places directly on those comrades in charge of education, transportation, health, or whatever, at each level, the responsibility for dealing with those tasks, instead of through a system that was a bit more complicated through the executive committee. [end recording]

In Havana, the administration council will be approved on 9 April.

### Alarcon Meets With German Parliamentary Delegation

*FL3003234593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] [Ricardo] Alarcon has met with a German parliamentary delegation. When one wishes to analyze the Cuban Revolution, one must make the analysis on the basis of the characteristics of the Cuban people—said Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's government [ANPP]. Along with Jaime Crombet, who is vice president of this supreme governing body, Alarcon met with a delegation of legislators from the Democratic Socialist Party of Germany [Partido Democratico Socialista de Alemana]. (?The delegation) is headed by Dr. (Ursula Fischer).

The visitors, a majority of whom are women, expressed interest in the elections held recently in Cuba, the situation of Cuba's young people, health, and education. They showed great interest in obtaining information on Cuba that will permit them to analyze certain problems in parliament.

Alarcon and Crombet provided them with extensive information on the electoral process and the population's participation in it, as well as on the new line of work of the Cuban legislature.

### LLoyd's of London Praises Cuban Investment Efforts

*FL3003214093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] David Roland, the president of Lloyd's of London, described Cuba's perspectives in finding partners for foreign investments in Cuba as very good. Roland welcomed to London a high level Cuban delegation that participated in the second conference hosted by Euromoney Publishing House. Roland pointed out that Lloyds has never been afraid to take risks. On the contrary, the company which groups over 20,000 British insurers has made a profitable business out of risk with policies ranging from coverage against malfuntioning satellites to the dangers of twin births.

LLoyd's of London was founded over 300 years ago and is today a veritable market of insurance policies. This company obtains 49 percent of its income from nonmaritime policies, 28 percent from ships, 10 percent from planes, and 13 percent of its huge profits come from vehicular policies.

The Cuban delegation visiting London is headed by Ernesto Melendez, the minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], and the following vice presidents: Ramon Sanchez Parodi from the Foreign Ministry; Raul Amado Blanco from the National Bank; Antonio de los Reyes from Basic Industry Ministry; Octavio Castilla from CECE, as well as Gustavo Gutierrez from National Tourism Institute.

## Inter-Caribbean Affairs

### Manning Proposes UN Security Involvement for Caricom

*FL3103020293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 30, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning said Tuesday the Caribbean should give consideration to the idea of becoming involved in peacekeeping activities under the United Nations banner.

Giving the feature address at the opening of a regional security conference Manning said that while recognising the importance of a regional security regime as a deterrent against potential disturbances, the present climate seemed propitious to the ideals of embracing even more closely international arrangements for collective security such as those provided by the United Nations.

"In expanding our horizon, by soliciting global security measures, we in the Caribbean may also need to give consideration to the idea of becoming involved in peacekeeping activities under the aegis of the United Nations," Manning said at the ninth Caribbean Island Nations Security Conference titled, "Regional Security—Towards the Year 2000."

Manning said he hoped the paper to be presented on the topic of "United Nations Peacekeeping" at the two-day conference would generate further ideas on the proposal. The prime minister added a draft document on the proposal for the establishment of a committee of member states to coordinate regional security forces was being prepared for circulation to members of the Caribbean Community, with a view to obtaining their agreement and formalising the arrangement for mutual cooperation in defence of the region.

"I therefore wish to assure you, that the political will exists and to a certain extent, the legal framework is there, for regional security cooperation," he said. Manning said at a conference of Commonwealth Caribbean military commanders which was held in Barbados last

June under the aegis of the defunct West Indian Commission, common threats were identified including revolution or insurgency, terrorism, subversion, drugs, foreign aggression, escalating criminal activities, and disasters.

"In the face of these perceived threats, strategies must be devised to safeguard our people, our economies, and our cherished democratic traditions," he said. Stating that the stability of the region had been undermined by the flagrant overthrow of the democratically-elected government of Haiti, Manning said the situation existing there must not be perpetuated.

".... We will therefore continue to monitor events, and to associate ourselves with any reasonable action to return Haiti to the democratic path which her people sought to pursue." Manning said as the region approached the 21st century, the whole idea of regional security would assume an added dimension, since decisions on the concept would impact on the business investments, the marketing of the region as a tourist destination, as well as the negotiation of international economic agreements.

He continued, "As the movement towards the free market economy and revised trading policies gains momentum in this hemisphere, we need to ensure a climate of stability in the region, if we are to achieve economic growth and prosperity."

The prime minister also said as the world turns towards the new century, closer cooperation in security matters among Caribbean states and with "our traditional allies," the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada would be essential to the preservation of peace and stability in the region.

## Haiti

### Nationale Warns of Intrigue, Uprootings, Reduced Army

*FL3103003793 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] The Haitian Free Press Agency [Agence de Presse Libre d'Haiti], APLH, has reported to us that there are many candidates for the post of prime minister. There are a total of 20 candidates coming and going between Washington and Montreal and Port-au-Prince. While these people are taking steps, either straightforwardly or on the sly, former President Aristide has some well-known lavalassiens such as Frantz Voltaire traveling from Montreal to Washington to prepare a political plan that includes the reduction of the Haitian Armed Forces to 2,000 men.

During the meeting between Caputo and the Group of Eight, [Jacquelin] Montalvo Despeignes [former minister without portfolio under the Nerette-Honorat government] stated that there should be 35,000 observers from the Nordic countries, but none from the Latin American countries. (Others such as) Robert Malval, owner of Le Natal Printing Company, who has printed all the documents for the lavalassiens, is, according to reliable sources, also a candidate. Robert Malval is Lebanese. Everybody knows him for his lavalas leanings.

Dante Caputo told a diplomat close to the negotiations for a solution to the Haitian crisis that the Haitians are simply not men, that all of them chase after the post of prime minister, but that none of them can agree with one another. [passage omitted]

The APLH goes on to say that during his meetings with the people's organizations at the Montana Hotel on 28 March, Dante Caputo raised his voice when a participant asked him whether the prime minister, for whom they are searching, would be chosen under Article 137 of the Constitution. The people's organizations proposed Herard Abraham, Gerard Latortue, Robert Malval, Leslie Delatour, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, Chavannes Jeune, Eddy Volel, Victor Benoit, Ralph Auguste, Robert Moise, and Marcel Bonny. According to Haitian observers, Dante Caputo will arrive from New York [pauses] ... will enter New York empty-handed because no imposed or negotiated solution has been found.

The APLH learned from a source who participated in these meetings that the UN envoy stated that if the Haitians remain incapable of finding a prime minister, he will issue an ultimatum to the current power to find a solution, or he will resign.

It is to point out that the private sector has reserved the right to explain to Caputo that it represents the economic motor of the country and that it is not ready to undergo new threats of uprooting and property destruction. This information came from the Haitian Free Press Agency, APLH.

### Pro-Aristide Demonstration Dispersed in Cap-Haitien

*FL3003161493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Report by correspondent Jocely Jean in Cap-Haitien]

[Text] Over 200 demonstrators were in the streets in the morning of 29 March to celebrate the sixth anniversary of Haiti's Constitution. The demonstration took place in the area of Fatima in Lafossette where a crowd was clapping and chanting: "Up with the 1987 Constitution, up with Father Aristide's return, and down with Prime Minister Marc Bazin." The military in Cap-Haitien dispersed the demonstrators with blows from truncheons.

Several demonstrators were hit severely and several received head injuries. While dispersing the crowd, the military arrested two young men who were later released. According to what the chief of police in Cap-Haitien, Captain [name indistinct], said, those people were freed at approximately 1500. We have been informed that those men were severely manhandled while they were being detained at the Cap-Haitien Police Department.

### Haitian Police Arrest Gonaives Demonstrators 29 Mar

*FL3103010493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole In French 1700 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Eight people were arrested following a demonstration in Gonaives on 29 March. Police dispersed the demonstration in the presence of the UN/OAS civilian mission. It was about 1500 GMT when the demonstration began in Gonaives. It took place in (Baraboteau) with about 100 people carrying posters and slogans against the current government and in favor of the Constitution and the ousted president. The demonstrators gathered quickly in numbers reaching about 400. Police in Gonaives, in the presence of the UN/OAS civilian mission members, arrived, dispersed the demonstration, and assaulted the demonstrators. At about 1900 GMT, 10 undercover policemen went to the house of Dieugrand Registre, former registrar under Aristide. They destroyed his car and arrested eight people who were in his house and in the neighborhood, including five women and three children under 18 years of age. According to Father Daniel (Rousiere), who is in charge of the Justice and Peace in Gonaives Committee, despite his appeals to the UN/OAS members and to several other national and international institutions, Johnson Legrand, Tropic FM correspondent in Gonaives, is still in hiding.

### UN/OAS Mediator Dante Caputo Extends Mission

*FL3003134793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] Dante Caputo's mission has been extended. Mr. Caputo, who was due to end his mission on 29 March, has extended it in an attempt to find an agreement on the procedure and timetable for a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. According to a diplomatic source, Mr. Caputo will stay as long as necessary. He is working in close coordination with the U.S. special charge d'affaires for Haiti, Mr. Charles Redman. It is said that the problem of guarantees of reciprocal nonviolence and the respect of those guarantees remains a major and delicate point in the discussions.

On the agenda of this week of consultations, Mr. Caputo is planning a new meeting with the Army High Command and a meeting on 31 March with the country's businessmen. Correspondent Clarence Renois has some comments.

[Begin Renois recording] After a week in Port-au-Prince, the international mediator is still not out of the woods. He has not ended his mission. Dante Caputo, who was planning to leave on 29 March, will extend his stay for consultations in Port-au-Prince. He will have talks with different sectors. He will have at least two meetings with the Army and one with the government. Numerous consultations with the representatives of the political sector, the private sector, the labor unions, and the churches were allegedly not enough and did not permit the UN/OAS representative to come to any conclusions. [passage omitted]

By extending the duration of his mission, Caputo seems to confirm the rumors being spread during the past few days in Port-au-Prince on the pressing obligation for him to leave Port-au-Prince with a clear dictate from all parties in his pocket. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Political Parties Comment on Constitution

*FL3003174093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] The sixth anniversary of the ratification of the 29 March 1987 Constitution passed without any special activity on 29 March except for a day of reflection planned by a group of parliamentarians. This caused several political groups to postpone a gathering which they wanted to organize in front of the Parliament. Besides this activity, the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] and the National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti [PNDPH] separately issued press releases outlining their thoughts on the sixth anniversary of the Constitution.

The MDN believes that the 1987 Constitution has not permitted anything to go well for the six years it has been in force. On the contrary, according to the MDN, this Constitution is the reason why democracy has not yet been established in Haiti. Professor Hubert de Ronceray's party acknowledges that there are many good principles in the 1987 Constitution as in all other constitutions in the world, but that it did not take long to become a poison to the country because it brought even more divisions among a people who were already divided under governments prior to 1986. The MDN, that quotes a series of violations, adds that it is the first time that a Constitution has been violated so much by both Haitians and foreigners. Hubert de Ronceray's party advises that Haiti has been living through unconstitutionality since 29 November and points out that the exiled president committed 77 violations against the country's fundamental law during the seven months he was in power.

For its part, the PNDPH mostly focussed its reflections on how Haiti could get out of the political crisis it has been experiencing since 30 September 1991. The party headed by Senator Turneb Delpe thinks that what he calls constitutional legality should be restored in the country with a minimum of political morality so the crisis can be resolved. According to the release, democratic order and any economic progress will never occur in Haiti as long as those who were elected in the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections do not return to their posts. The note brings the solidarity of the party to the people, who have never stopped fighting against the anti-change forces, and to the international community. The PNDPH thinks the Parliament represents the last rampart of the results of all the sacrifices the people made to allow for the 7 February 1986 events.

### Senate Bloc Leader Requests Negotiations Update

*FL3003231493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] The Senate bloc led by Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton has asked the government for information on the negotiations being held in the country. In a letter addressed to the Villa D'Accueil prime minister, Sen. Thomas Eddy Dupiton writes, and I quote:

Until now, for lack of official documents, the Senate has been getting its information about the progress of the negotiations your government is conducting only through the radio or bush telegraph. Neither the UN/OAS special envoy nor representatives of the U.S. Government have attempted to meet with the Haitian Parliament, even in an advisory capacity. The most that has happened was Dante Caputo's contact with an opposing party's parliamentary bloc. This invites questions on the objectivity of his mission.

The third point in this letter Sen. Dupiton writes is, and I quote: If the communique from the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] command dated 15 March is to be believed, that the release and transfer of sailor Coracelin Williams to the American authorities was requested by your government, obviously this would be a case of blatant foreign interference in Haiti's internal affairs.

Persistent rumors suggest reprehensible behavior among the accredited members of the civilian mission in the country. Besides a very noticeable presence on the Haitian beaches, one of them, scantily clad, allegedly wandered through the hall of his hotel seeking comfort... I am still quoting the letter from Sen. Dupiton... Another allegedly stole a painting from an art gallery. It was also reported that one of them shoved an on-duty policeman.

If these rumors are true, what does the government think and what has it done? The office of the Senate of the Republic, aware of the negative impact of such misdemeanors on political progress, considers it appropriate to share with you its deep concern for respecting constitutional provisions and the terms of the Villa D'Accueil agreement. Certainly this agreement gives authority to the consensus government to find an acceptable solution that satisfies the expectation of all Haitians, of the international community, and of the sectors that are directly affected by events that led to the 30 September occurence.

[The agreement's] tripartite character includes the parliament, the Haitian Armed Forces, and the current government. It has not been well explained, Dupiton continues in his letter, that both chambers have simply been ignored, to the point that their information about the negotiations is acquired only through the press. The Senate believes that if foreign observers, envoys, or others desire the breakdown of national institutions, it is your government's responsibility to persuade them [otherwise] by using the judicial system, the provisions of the Constitution, and the laws of the Republic. Therefore, this office hopes that Prime Minister Marc Bazin will not delay in dispelling its worries by providing explanations that will avoid a questioning by our office. [end recording]

## Jamaica

### General Elections Begin 'Slowly' on 30 Mar

*FL3003153793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—Polling in Jamaica's 12th general election since universal adult suffrage in 1944 began slowly early Tuesday, apparently without major incidents. One million Jamaicans are eligible to vote in the election which the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP) is favoured to win. The PNP and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) are contesting all 60 constituencies. The fringe Republican Party is fielding candidates in five constituencies and four independent candidates are also contesting.

Reports from across the island said some polling stations had opened late and electoral documents had not reached some polling centres up to an hour after the scheduled 7:00 a.m. start. No word was immediately available from Jamaica's Electoral Office as to whether problems relating to the misplacement of about 12,000 names on a supplementary list for southern Jamaica had been dealt with.

Following protests from the JLP, director of elections, Noel Lee, assured the nation late Monday that the problem had been caused by a computer error and was being speedily corrected. He promised that a corrected supplementary list would have been ready for delivery to the relevant areas by late Monday to early Tuesday. Lee said, however, that voters should "exercise patience as there was sure to be a few problems."

Over the last three weeks of the campaign, the JLP has repeatedly attacked the integrity of the voters' register, claiming inefficiency and possible fraud at the electoral office. A computer breakdown which led to the postponement of last week's vote for the security forces from Friday to Saturday provided additional ammunition for the JLP, with leader Edward Seaga saying it was just a foretaste of what was likely to happen Tuesday.

The electoral office is supervised by a seven-member electoral advisory committee which includes two members each from the political parties and three independent members.

While the opinion polls have indicated a big victory for Prime Minister Percival Patterson's PNP, Seaga insists that the vote will be close. Political analysts point out that a major defeat for the JLP could spell the end for the 62-year-old Seaga after 31 years of representative politics. Despite his best efforts to concentrate the attention of Jamaicans on alleged poor management of the economy and on a series of "scandals" that have dogged

the PNP since it took power in 1989, the PNP seems to have suceeded in focusing much attention on the leadership styles of the two leaders.

Since taking office over a year ago from the retired Michael Manley, Patterson has captured the public imagination with his consensual and non-confrontational style of leadership in contrast with the popularly perceived image of his opponent as combative and autocratic.

Seaga apart, much attention will also be focused on whether JLP former prime minister Hugh Shearer, who in 1989 took his South Clarendon constituency in south central Jamaica by just four votes, can win for the JLP again. The polls suggest that he is destined to lose his seat to the 32-year-old former head of the National Investment Bank of Jamaica, Peter Bunting. And in the east, Pearnel Charles, rehabilitated member of the "gang of five" which fell out of favour with the JLP three years ago for questioning the leadership style of Seaga, is widely expected to lose the traditional JLP stronghold of East St. Thomas to Fenton Ferguson.

For the PNP, Finance Minister Hugh Small is said to be less than comfortable in South St. Catherine where he is challenged by Michael Williams. Much attention will also focus on the contest between former gang of five member Karl Samuda, who changed sides last year and is now contesting for the PNP in North Central St. Andrew against lawyer Tom Tavares Finson. The seat is expected to be closely contested.

The independents and the Republican Party are expected to have little impact but for one constituency, East Rural St. Andrew where another former JLP dissident, Joan Gordon-webley, is running as an independent and is expected to split the JLP vote, thereby presenting the seat to Oliver Clue of the PNP.

### Final Projections, Election Analyses Offered

*FL3103031793 Bridgetown CANA in English 0133 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[By Paget DeFreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—The governing People's National Party [PNP] was heading towards a crushing defeat of opposition leader Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] following elections here Tuesday, according to early computer analyses. With nine percent of the votes counted, the PNP, led by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, was ahead with 68 percent, suggesting, analysts said, a swing to the ruling party in the region of 11 percent.

The computer-projected victory was coming a year to the day that Patterson was sworn in as prime minister, following the retirement of former Prime Minister Michael Manley. Patterson took over the party and the government after his defeat of the popular Portia Simpson for the presidency of the PNP.

"I expect you can call the elections now," said an analyst working on computer projections for the Caribbesan News Agency. JLP spokesman Hector Wynter concurred a few minutes later, while speaking in a post-election discussion programme on Radio Jamaica (RJR).

"I think we can declare the PNP has won the election," Wynter said. "The thing to do now is to determine by what majority." Sixty seats are at stake in the election, analysts have so far "declared" 14 for the PNP and three for the JLP. During the election campaign, commentators and pollsters had predicted a low turnout of voters, based on apathy with the electoral process. But the victory would have been welcomed by Patterson, gaining his own electoral mandate.

It was a point pressed by Patterson in his closing campaign speech Sunday, when he jokingly referred to the penchant of the Jamaican electorate to give governing parties two terms in office.

"This is my first term," Patterson said. "The one you will give me in five years' time will be the second."

"This is a PNP across-the-board victory," said University of the West Indies (UWI) political scientist, Dr. Bryan Meekes, on the RJR programme. ".... This is a worse-case scenario for the JLP." Meekes suggested that the governing party would gain 53 seats, against seven for the JLP. Analysts on Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) Television also called the election for the PNP but did not give a definitive seat projection.

A number of outstanding political careers could end in the expected JLP debacle, including that of elder statesman and one-time prime minister, Hugh Shearer. Shearer, an outstanding trade unionist and president general of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), was trailing 32-year-old investment banker, Peter Bunting, in the Southeast Clarendon constituency.

The defeat will also call into question Seaga's continued leadership of the JLP and his capacity to lead the fractious organisation into the 21st century. Until a recent announcement of the healing of all wounds, the JLP had for more than two years been wracked by a squabble over the so-called "Gang-of-Five" issue that publicly called into question Seaga's leadership style. Five top members of the party, all of whom had served in Seaga cabinets, were part of group protesting Seaga's perceived autocratic attitude.

From the unofficial counts, one "Gang" member, Karl Samuda, who joined the PNP, maintained his North St. Andrew seat in a close contest with the JLP's Tom Tavares-Finson. Douglas Vaz, who made up with the JLP, seemed to have pulled through narrowly in the Northeast St. Andrew seat against Karlene Kirlew-Robinson, the wife of public service minister, Paul Robertson. Pearnel Charles, another member of the "Gang of Five", lost his West St. Thomas seat to PNP newcomer, Tony Hylton. His neighbour to the east,

former security minister Errol Anderson, lost to another newcomer, Dr. Fenton Ferguson.

If Seaga's leadership style was a factor in the JLP's projected defeat, Patterson's approach was a boon to his party. His consensual, non-confrontational approach has won high praise here and was a major campaign issue to deflect JLP attacks on the state of the economy.

Tuesday's poll was marred by violence and fraud in the traditional so-called "Garrison Constituencies," where there are sharp divides between supporters of the two parties. In these areas there were cases of ballot box stealing and stuffing as well as several shooting incidents. At least five persons were shot and injured, including two policemen, and there was also looting in the Spanish Town, the old captial, 14 miles west of Kingston. Wynter claimed that violence and intimidation kept JLP supporters away from the polls and ensured the low voter turnout.

The election was largely peaceful in rural constituencies although many stations opened late because of logistical problems. Many of the logistical difficulties related to the late delivery of a supplementary voters register and electoral officials dropping out at the last minute. Some of the officers withdrew following the murder Saturday night of a returning officer in the Central St. Catherine constituency in which Spanish Town is situated.

## Voting Ends With Suggested Low Voter Turnout

*FL3103013093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2325 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—Voting ended Tuesday in a general election here marked by the expected violence and fraud in the so-called "garrison" constituencies, and logistical problems that delayed polling mostly in rural areas. The election pits the governing People's National Party (PNP) against the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) of opposition leader Edward Seaga.

Informal surveys suggested a low voter turnout, below 60 percent in several areas, as many electors stayed away, either turned off by the violence or their choices in candidates. Reports monitored by CANA suggested that at least five persons, including two policemen, were shot and injured while there was looting in the historic capital of Spanish Town, 14 miles west of here.

There were a number of cases in the capital of ballot stealing and ballot stuffing by armed thugs. There was also an ugly incident in which JLP leader Seaga was holed up by PNP supporters at a school in the Northwest St. Andrew, which was used as a polling station, before being rescued by police and soldiers and the intervention of PNP vice president, Portia Simpson.

Much of the logistical difficulties centred around the late delivery of a supplementary voters register, with which there had been problems with its printing, and electoral officials dropping out at the last minute. Some of the officers withdrew following the murder Saturday night of a returning officer in the Central St. Catherine constituency in which Spanish Town is situated.

"The staff had to work under low morale and high pressure," said director of elections, Noel Lee. "It was really tight to get things out, but we managed. It was really a disappointment that in some urban areas people decided to go out and shoot up things and to steal ballots," Lee added. Lee said he was surprised at reports that in some constituencies that there were reports of election material not reaching some areas.

"We sent them out," he said, "the records are here."

## Unofficial Polling Shows Paterson Ahead

*FL3103121193 Bridgetown CANA in English 0445 GMT 31 Mar 93*

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 31, CANA—Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, enjoying a lopsided victory in Tuesday's general elections, held out an olive branch to the vanquished opposition as he continued a characteristic quest to build national consensus. Patterson also pledged to work to make the violence that marred the campaign and voting in urban communities, the last in the island's political life.

According to the unofficial count from the polling, Patterson's People's National Party (PNP) garnered an estimated 61 per cent of the popular vote. So far, the party has had 45 seats called for it by analysts and this could go as high as 53. The PNP won 45 of the 60 parliamentary seats in the general elections of 1989. Opposition leader Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) has so far won five seats, and, at best, could win 10 based on existing trends, analysts said.

Patterson, in a victory speech to hundreds of supporters packed into the PNP headquarters, declared he was a "happy man" but made a point of not gloating. Said he: "I want (to say) to the leader of the opposition and to the members who have been duly elected on his side that we do regard this as a time for retaliation or making accusations.

"We think this a time to extend the hand of friendship and of fellowship as we seek to work together to make a common cause—that of building a united Jamaica."

Patterson said Jamaica had to get rid of the bitterness and intolerance that have become features of the electoral process. "We have to eliminate those things which have served to divide us in the past and try to find those things which can unify us and help in building a stronger Jamaica."

In his concession speech, JLP leader Seaga had pointed to violence and other problems in the electoral system which he said had affected his party's chances, though

not the overall outcome of the election. Seaga called for an overhaul of the system. Elections here are overseen by an independent commission, made up of representives from the two major parties and independent members appointed by the island's governor general.

Patterson seemed to respond directly to Seaga—again in his consensual style.

"As to any areas where there is room for improvement, let me say very clearly that my administration and my party stand prepared to discuss it with the Jamaica Labour Party so that we can perfect a system that is a true reflection of the democratic tradition of Jamaica."

Up to 10 persons were killed in election related violence during the campaign and one won was stabbed to death on voting day during a fracas between rival supporters. At least four other persons, including two policemen, were shot and injured. It was not the kind of election that Patterson said he wanted.

"It is my wish and it is my determination that this is the last election that should be marred by violence in any form," patterson said.

Patterson saw the election result as vindicating the free market path to development being pursued by his administration.

"Our victory means support for our economic direction," he declared.

Seaga, however, suggested that the electorate was not concerned with issues of substance and that the election turned out to be one of style—essentially Patterson's apparent easy reasonableness against his own perceived combativeness. Seaga was also clear that the defeat would call into question his leadership, especially after the recent fractures in his party that were patched up only in recent months. It was Seaga's third straight defeat in elections—two national and a local government poll that was fought more on a national basis.

"Central to the rebuilding of the party will be the question of leadership and I have to seriously consider my own position in that respect," he said.

### Seaga Concedes Defeat; Suggests 'May' Step Down

*FL3103114393 Bridgetown CANA in English 0321 GMT 31 Mar 93*

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—Opposition leader Edward Seaga conceded defeat after Tuesday's general election and suggested that he could step down as part of the rebuilding of his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). Seaga, even as he congratulated Prime Minister P.J. Patterson and the People's National Party (PNP) for their victory, called for an overhaul of the electoral system.

Speaking to a throng of supporters at JLP headquarters, a subdued Seaga said that reconstruction of the JLP, heavily defeated in the election, would be a matter of urgency.

Said Seaga: "It is obvious from the results that we shall be proceeding with virtually a new team, and with that new team will come fresh blood, some younger persons and many who have a contribution to make....

"Central to the rebuilding of the party will be the question of leadership and I have seriously to consider my own position in that respect."

Seaga's leadership style, criticised by some as cold, aloof, and autocratic, was a major issue in the capaign and was often contrasted to Patterson's attempt of consensus building. Although Seaga said that the PNP would have won the election, he described Tuesday's voting as the worse he had ever witnessed in Jamaica.

He claimed that fraud and intimidation were used to undermine his party, especially in the southern part of the island were the JLP was strongest.

"The prime minister," Seaga said, "has my congratulations for a strong and effective campaign. And as one leader to another I salute him in their victory."

However, Seaga questioned the substance of what Patterson and his team had to say. He said: "The people did not concern themselves, electorally, with issues of performance and integrity.

"In truth and in fact, this election ended up one of style rather than substance."

Seaga said that after the celebration Patterson had serious issues to deal with and declared that the electorate would turn to his party in the next election as they always did "in times of crisis."

### Opposition General Secretary Concedes Election Defeat

*FL3103030293 Bridgetown CANA in English 0232 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) general secretary, Ryan Peralto, Tuesday night conceded defeat in general elections here while suggesting that polling day hitches might have affected the party's final seat count.

Peralto spoke on television as latest computer projections gave 31 of the 60 parliamentary seats to the governing People's National Party (PNP) compared with five for the JLP. He said a number of marginal seats might have been affected by the problems, but not the final outcome.

"The point though is that it appears fairly clear that PNP would have won the election regardless. The question is how many seats we would have won?" Peralto said that he expected the JLP would win "something under 20" of the 60 parlaimentary seats. He however made clear that

the JLP maintained concerns about the capacity of the PNP administration to manage Jamaica's economy.

Peralto said his party hoped that the government would recognise the defects of its past four years in goverment and "begin to administer the role of government in a manner that would prove more beneficial to the government."

### Elections Director Reports Stolen Ballot Boxes, Gunfire

*FL3003182993 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Jamaica's director of elections, Noel Lee, said today that Kingston constituencies have had to be on [word indistinct] as problems have hurt early voting for a new government. Mr. Lee said voting was proceeding well in rural constituencies. However, he admitted that generally the election had not been going well as he told reporters of how ballot boxes were stolen, polling stations being held up, and gunfire everywhere. Mr. Lee said he would not describe the situation across Jamaica though as reaching a state of crisis.

### Elections Prompt Violence in Kingston Constituencies

*FL3003194593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1912 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—The old problem of violence and fraud broke out in predictable areas but logistical foul-ups appeared to be the major problem that dogged the electoral process as Jamaicans voted in general elections Tuesday. There were several reported shootings in the so-called "Garrison Constituencies" mostly in depressed areas of the capital Kingston and police confirmed that one policeman was shot and injured. The Garrison Constituencies are those where there is a sharp divide between supporters of the governing People's National Party (PNP) and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Radio Jamaica (RJR) reported at least one other person being shot and injured in volatile West Kingston, an area with a history of political violence. A woman was also reportedly stabbed in the same area.

Cases of ballot box grabbing were reported. According to the reports, four of the five boxes at a polling station in the North- West St. Andrew constituency were carried away by armed men. There were also reports of ballot box stuffing and open voting.

But while violence and fraud surfaced in the garrison areas, the late arrival of officials or the shortage of material, particularly in rural areas, appeared to be the major bugbear. In some cases, polling stations did not open until five hours after the scheduled 7:00 a.m.start.

Electoral office officials were not immediately available for comment but party workers pointed out that although the polls officially close at 5:00 p.m., the law provides for persons in the vicinity of the station at that hour and wanting to cast their ballots, to be allowed to do so.

The opposition JLP which has been complaining about the quality of the voters register and the readiness of the electoral office for the poll, had predicted widespread problems. However Monday night and early Tuesday, JLP executives urged supporters to come out and vote. They were apparently concerned that supporters were confused by a statement made Monday by a top JLP official that the party could not go into the election with a supplementary list which had errors in it. That list with just over 20,000 names was corrected.

### Soldiers Rescue Opposition Leader From Angry Crowd

*FL3003201693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1959 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) leader, Edward Seaga, was rescued Tuesday afternoon after being trapped inside a polling station by angry government supporters. Seaga was escorted away from the school building in the constituency of North-West St. Andrew by a heavy contingent of police and soldiers. The incident involving the JLP leader was among several reported as Jamaicans cast ballots for a new government in general elections. A Radio Jamaica (RJR) reporter said he was told by JLP supporters that Seaga was in the area and, hearing of irregularities at the polling station, decided to stop and investigate. The ruling People's National Party (PNP) candidate for North-West St. Andrew, Dr. Jephthah Ford, was inside the building. Ford's opponent in the constituency is the JLP's Derrick Smith, who represented the constituency in the last Parliament. The school is situated in an area with strong PNP leanings. Polling stations are normally out-of-bounds to all except voters and electoral officials. A large crowd of PNP supporters massed the building, blocking in Seaga and his security men. Soldiers, backed by an amoured personnel carrier and a helicopter, went to the scene to disperse the crowd. Portia Simpson, the popular PNP vice president, also turned up at the area to wild cheers from the crowd.

## El Salvador

### Villalobos on Truth Commission Recommendations

*PA3103034193 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Mar 93 pp 1,12*

[Report by Vladimir Florez]

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Leader Joaquin Villalobos stated that the recommendations included in the Truth Commission report "did not bring a happy ending," and resulted in "dividing the various Salvadoran sectors."

Villalobos, who personally handed over to the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] a weapons arsenal the FMLN had hidden in Managua, indicated that "the Truth Commission's conclusions are not fair."

He said the Truth Commission was created to clarify the numerous murders of workers, farmers, students, and priests. "However," Villalobos stated, "its findings have caused the most serious political crisis the country has ever gone through."

"The Truth Commission's findings excluded the role played by the U.S. Government. It could not uncover the masterminds behind the death squads and it blamed only one faction of the different sectors," he explained.

Villalobos said the left is comprised of two factions: one very conservative (the orthodox communists) and the other liberal (the social democrats). He said the reports' findings merely "blames one faction."

He declared that with respect to the case of the mayors "there were 26 mayors killed during the war. We, the directorate of the People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] claimed responsibility for 11 deaths. No one else has claimed responsibility for the other 15."

"We were clear and honest, accepted our responsibilities, while others remained silent," he stated.

He emphasized that the ERP members who describe themselves as liberals were the ones who came out worse. "Likewise, the report only targets one side of rightist sector within the Armed Forces. The politicians and businessmen came out spotless," he explained.

He added that "the report only says that there are politicians and businessmen linked to the death squads, that is all, nothing more."

The former member of the Salvadoran guerrillas general command claims that the Truth Commission report closed off political opportunities in El Salvador.

"I prefer a retired high-ranking military officer aspiring to being a candidate for deputy instead of spending his time organizing paramilitary forces," he said.

Regarding his being mentioned as responsible for the deaths of the 11 mayors, Villalobos says "that is account settling from the other leftist current for the liberal stand we took in signing the peace agreements."

The former guerrilla leader took Onusal military officers and Sandinist People's Army members to a villa located 500 meters east of the 14 km marker on the road to Masaya, where they had a weapons cache with over 800 assault rifles, ammunition, and war materiel.

The weaponry included a large amount of U.S.-made M-16's, German G-3's, Belgian FAL's, and Korean AK's.

Villalobos stated that most of those weapons were used by the U.S. Army in Vietnam and acquired in 1981 by the ERP on the black market.

"We had already reported these weapons. Now we are turning them over in an open manner," he said.

The Onusal officers who received the weapons were Commander Angel Palmero (Spain), Captain Hans Throgrea (Sweden), and Lieutenant Colonel Jose Roberto Frazao (Brazil).

An inventory of the weapons will be made on 5 April. They will be destroyed in Nicaragua in the next few days. The place used by the FMLN for weapons traffic is called Villa Melida, and legally belongs to the ERP. A van and several other vehicles are parked there. They were used for weapons trafficking.

### Justice Minister Admits Need for Reform; Deputy Sworn In

*PA3003221793 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Justice Minister Rene Hernandez Valiente has said that our law does not respond to modern needs. He presented a national legal reform package during the formal presentation of Ruben Mejia Pena as new deputy justice minister. He admitted that the Judicial Branch has operational failures, but pointed out that the ministry is promoting several draft laws as part of the overall reform plan, including a new criminal code, a criminal code of procedure, agrarian code, family code, a law to deal with juvenile offenders, and an code of administrative procedure, among others. The new deputy justice minister said that expectations to strengthen the state of law are positive, as new projects are beginning to surface. The justice system's defects, however, cannot be changed by a decree or with all the best intentions. This is a gradual process that must be continuous and consistent if it is to produce positive results, he added.

### Government Commission To Travel to United Nations

*PA3003160393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] A Salvadoran Government commission will go to the United Nations to deliver to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali the schedule for the fulfillment of

the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission, as well as those from the Truth Commission.

The Salvadoran Government commission will be headed by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria. According to President Alfredo Cristiani, the presentation of this schedule is the continuation of the fulfillment stage for the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission and begins the fulfillment stage for those from the Truth Commission.

President Cristiani also identified some points the government is willing to fulfill and some it is not. That information will be conveyed to the UN secretary general.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We accepted all of the recommendations made that affect the executive branch and that are not unconstitutional. All others will be discussed before they are fulfilled.

The amnesty has also had some effect regarding the recommendations. I have mentioned the prohibition on participating in public offices or public election posts. The amnesty has a legal effect on that problem, and besides, there is possibly a contradiction with principles established in the Constitution. [end recording]

The president still has not accepted General Rene Emilio Ponce's resignation as defense minister. Cristiani says he has not done so because there must be an orderly transition in the Armed Forces staff.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Logically, but not necessarily, the transition must involve only the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission. In that regard, we believe we must handle the changes in the Armed Forces command structure carefully to allow an orderly and stable transition. [end recording]

In spite of that clarification, the Salvadoran President officially announced the retirement of current Deputy Defense Minister General Juan Orlando Zepeda, who will leave office in April. Cristiani did not say who will replace Gen. Zepeda.

### Poll Results Reveal Opinions on Electoral Issues

*PA3003185093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Report by Gandi Montoya]

[Text] The Salvadoran people remain uncertain about their political preferences for the 1994 presidential elections, and some electoral aspects are still unknown. In late February 1993 the Technological University surveyed a group of more than 1,000 people, mostly men. More than 60 percent of those interviewed were not familiar with the Electoral Code, and 50 percent were unaware of the political platform of the party of their preference, although they said they would vote for that party for one reason or another.

The survey also revealed deficiencies in the voter registration process, as 32 percent of those interviewed did not have an electoral identification card.

The survey asked for an opinion on the image of the current government with the question: Has the Nationalist Republican Alliance fulfilled its promises? A total of 58 percent said the current government has not fulfilled its promises, 26 percent said it had, and 16 percent gave no opinion. In a related question, 70.5 percent of those interviewed said the causes of the armed conflict have not been eliminated, 17 percent said they had, and 13 percent did not answer.

People were also asked whether media time for political campaigns should be regulated—a topic that caused great controversies within political parties a few months ago. Of those interviewed, 75 percent agreed with the regulation, 22 percent found it unacceptable, and 7 percent preferred not to answer.

### FMLN Delivers Weapons to Nicaraguan Authorities

*PA3003152293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Joaquin Villalobos, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], on 29 March delivered a weapons cache to be destroyed by Nicaraguan authorities before UN Observers for El Salvador officials.

The Salvadoran Revolutionary Party of the People's Revolutionary Army, PRS-ERP, issued a communique reporting that the cache includes 600 assault rifles of various calibers and other weapons that will be destroyed in Nicaragua.

It also states that the weapons delivery is due to a commitment made by that organization to the UN secretary general.

The report also states that this action closes a chapter on arms trafficking in Central America and proves that the peace process is irreversible.

## Guatemala

### Government, Guerrillas Fail To Reach Peace Agreement

*PA3003231793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2231 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Government and guerrillas have ended a three-day meeting here without reaching an agreement on the peace process. Both sides decided to meet again in this capital on 14 April, it was officially reported.

In a news conference, Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, Guatemalan peace process mediator, said that even though the parties showed an interest in the dialogue, the meeting ended without "any significant agreement being reached."

Differences regarding the human rights issue prevailed, especially regarding the creation of a commission in charge of investigating human rights violations.

Differences also exist regarding a timetable for the peace process, which could include a cease-fire and the participation of civilian groups in the negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the conflict, which has lasted over three decades.

Quezada Toruno said progress had been reached regarding the drafting of a timetable —from 2 May to 20 October or 22 November—to implement the possible peace agreements, even though a date for a cease-fire has not yet been established.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) General Command admitted there were "insurmountable differences" regarding human rights issues, especially because of the government's refusal to accept a UN-approved representative.

According to the rebels, since there is a lack of trust concerning the country's situation, the participation of international organizations "is uncomfortable, especially because there are questionable situations."

The government's peace commission, headed by Manuel Conde Orellana, denied the government is trying to create a commission made up of only Guatemalans. He said a UN representative should only participate as an observer.

"The UN must first play the role of observer and then become a verifier," according to Conde Orellana, who described as "positive" the round of negotiations because topics not previously discussed were covered on this occasion.

## Nicaragua

### FSLN Holds Assembly, Makes 'Public' Statement

*PA3003163593 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Mar 93*

[Text] After a news conference held by members of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], the group's leaders discussed two statements from the Sandinist Assembly held on 27 and 28 March.

FSLN Secretary General Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra disclosed the Public Statement—as they call it—which discusses the deterioration of Nicaragua's political, economic, and social situations and states that the blame goes to those who have been undermining our institutions' legitimacy by bolstering polarization and vengeful attitudes, thus creating instability and social chaos.

The FSLN further states that in order to overcome the current national crisis and attain peace, stability, and economic reactivation, it is essential to seek consensus among Nicaraguans. The FSLN therefore fully supports the convocation of a national dialogue, which must be held without preconditions and with a tolerant and flexible attitude from the participating political and economic forces in order to be successful.

The public statement also says that the FSLN will work for an alternative economic project that will truly incorporate the vast majorities in production, employment, and the fulfillment of their basic needs. In order to achieve that goal, the FSLN will discuss during an extraordinary session of the Sandinist Assembly on 17 April an economic alternative to guide actions undertaken in economic and social fields.

The FSLN also categorically rejects the government's economic stabilization and adjustment program, which they claim is meant to stimulate an economic minority while excluding the majority of national producers, particularly the smaller ones.

In an internal FSLN statement, Commander Daniel Ortega announced the following:

[Begin Ortega recording] We will punish all those responsible for abusing the patrimony of the FSLN. We will create a special common fund to organize support programs for fellow Sandinists.

We have placed special emphasis on the need to care for and strengthen the FSLN's coherence and political and organizational unity by discussing and solving problems with the brotherly spirit [words indistinct] during this Sandinist Assembly.

We agreed to abide by the guidelines contained in the document approved by the Sandinist Assembly and turn those guidelines into the actions and tasks of all Sandinists.

Our methods must be aimed at the masses. The FSLN must be the base and political head of the consensus required to confront the people's worst problems with concrete plans and all available forces.

The FSLN must not wear itself out with sterile discussions but strengthen itself by working directly with grass roots sectors. We must flexibly adjust our structures and operations using the organizations established in the statutes as the axis, but strengthening the Sandinist activities with the cadres, deputies, mayors, councilmen, unions, and associations to make our work more representative and effective.

Sandinists must take advantage of current opportunities to move toward a period of political initiative and offensive in accordance with the vindications demanded by the people.

We agreed to reorganize the permanent commissions of the Sandinist Assembly. Those are the economic, agrarian, organizational, and Atlantic coast commissions.

Two additional task commissions, the media and the education and health commissions, were created.

The territorial duties of the National Directorate on support for the Departmental Guidance Committees of the FSLN for rank and file tasks in the territory were ratified.

The need to strengthen the Coordinating Board was also ratified. The Coordinating Board brings together the National Directorate, several politicians, and Sandinist leaders who head mass organizations, central organizations, local powers, and others. [end recording]

## Group Vows To Defend Buildings Used by Cuban Embassy

*PA3103041393 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] A request by the Cuban Embassy for legal ownership of four buildings donated to the mission by the Sandanist Defense Committee [CDS] has been turned down by the Office for Territorial Organization, OOT. The CDS community movement will support the request filed by Cuban officials as part of the Nicaraguan people's commitment to the Cuban people, CDS leader Enrique Picado said.

[Begin recording] [Picado] I want to inform OOT and the government that defending our Cuban brothers' properties, especially under these circumstances, is unequivocal, unpostponable, and a matter of principle. In claiming that we had no legal status, let me say that the Nicaraguan community movement, through the CDS, [seven-second break in reception] we are proud we were. It was a social organization with the biggest membership—we had nine members—in a fledgling state council in 1980 and 1981. No other group had nine members.

Later, the Sandinist Government considered the CDS when issuing various decrees. We were also important in different areas of life, such as, consumer protection and the revolutionary guard law. In summation, the community movement did not formally have legal status for obvious and understandable reasons. We, however, were a legal entity since we participated directly in the assembly in existence at that time.

The OOT should not claim that we lacked legal status. For that reason we are going to fight for and defend the four properties now used by our Cuban comrades.

[Unidentified reporter] Where are they located?

[Picado] They are in Los Robles and near the Embassy. At one time, the community movement shared those buildings with the Cuban comrades in health-related brigade training programs. Another building was used as lodging for international delegations and Cuban mission members. We have no need to explain what these houses were used for because defending the four buildings is a matter of principle, especially since they were (?donated) to the Cuban comrades. [end recording]

## UNO Declines Dialogue Invitation by Minister Lacayo

*PA3103004793 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] National Opposition Union [UNO] leaders will not accept an invitation from Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo to attend a meeting on 30 March to exchange views on a possible national dialogue.

The UNO issued a communique on 29 March in reply to a letter sent last week by the presidential minister calling for this meeting—scheduled for 1000 today at the Presidential Palace. UNO states that the dialogue must take place after Holy Week. The communique adds that Antonio Lacayo is not a valid spokesman for this meeting because the UNO made agreements with President Chamorro and not with her ministers. One UNO leader compared it to UNO sending delegates to the talks instead of political council members.

UNO has continued work on its internal regulations now that it has reviewed its principles and activities. A new UNO political coordinator will be elected this week, and he will hold the post for two months. This post will be rotated among the various UNO member parties. The current UNO political coordinator is Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, who explains why UNO will not accept Lacayo's invitation:

[Begin recording] [Navarro] We feel that the letter from Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo contains lies and inaccurate statements concerning UNO's goal for dialogue. We believe Lacayo's letter places conditions on dialogue aspects. UNO believes, above all, that a person elected by the Nicaraguan people should be present at that dialogue. This person should be designated as the UNO candidate and this person should sign the agreements with UNO. If the dialogue is successful, this would be the person obligated to keep the agreements. The only person I have in mind is the president of the Republic. Presidency Minister Lacayo is not the proper spokesman since he was not elected by the people—the UNO did not choose him as a candidate. We believe President Chamorro should play the major role in this negotiation and national dialogue.

[Unidentified reporter] In other words, Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, if President Chamorro sends Presidency Minister Lacayo or some other minister to represent her at the talks, UNO will not participate?

[Navarro] The president must be present at the talks. It is not that she must be alone; her ministers and advisers can be there. We do not think it is appropriate for the presidency minister to handle the national dialogue; the negotiation is not the presidency minister's responsibility but President Chamorro's. This would be like UNO's political council delegating other people, who do not represent the party, to begin the national dialogue. I believe this dialogue should be conducted at the highest level.

Another important aspect is the question of guarantors—people who will be overseers on compliance with the signed agreements, people who truly have a talent for dialogue. UNO is tired of having its efforts for dialogue manipulated to express something that is not true in Nicaragua. [end recording]

## * Rightist, Leftist Violence Discussed

### * Armed Groups Criticized

*93CA0078A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 4*

[Commentary by Francisco X. Chamorro]

[Text] We were stunned by the fact that two editorials carried by an afternoon daily on Tuesday of this week asked for the help of newsmen in locating Frank Ibarra Silva, self-proclaimed leader of the Punitive Leftist Forces (FPI).

We make this observation because not long ago the same newspaper carried a long lead story about another armed group, the self-styled Group 3-80, made up of former members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and just as illegal as the FPI. On that occasion, the rearmed men posed with Red Eye rockets, which pose a threat, not only to military planes, but to civilian aircraft as well, and other types of weapons.

In the case of the Group 3-80, the rearmed men were labeled as heroes, which is precisely what the daily BARRICADA called Ibarra Silva. For that paper's editorialists, terrorism is divided into "good terrorism" and "bad terrorism."

In the case of the FPI, the editorialist claims that the international newsmen who covered Ibarra's "press conference" are guilty of covering up the crime and that "any invitation to participate in that incredible press conference should have been immediately reported to authorities."

We therefore wonder why they did not duly inform authorities of the conference granted them by the Group 3-80. What is the difference between murdering defenseless peasants such as Juan Davila and his two little daughters in Waslala and business leaders such as Arges Sequeira? Do they not have equal right to life?

Furthermore, what is the difference between an armed group which, from the mountains, threatens a deputy and a deputy who threatens the country's cities with a blood bath backed by the "cooperation" of armed groups such as the 3-80?

Nicaragua cannot continue the bloodletting that has gone on in recent years. We cannot allow the appearance in our country of armed groups, no matter what their ideology, that threaten, or worse, murder other Nicaraguans.

We could end up in a situation with no way out, comparable to what has gone on for 30 years in the sister republic of Guatemala, where life is worth little and where human rights are scorned by the military. It is a country that lives in terror and where political assassinations are the order of the day.

We must strengthen our country's democratic institutions so that all differences between political adversaries may be resolved by civic means. It is time to bury the war culture once and for all. It is time to condemn violence, whatever its origin.

### * 'Terrorism' Rejected

*93CA0078B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 11*

[Commentary by Carlos F. Chamorro B.]

[Text] When, on 12 October of last year, the first flyers from the so-called Punitive Leftist Forces (FPI) appeared with a list of death threats aimed at rightist politicians, we thought it was a macabre joke.

A few weeks later, when another FPI flyer claimed credit for the political assassination of Arges Sequeira, we considered the hypothesis of a possible propaganda action orchestrated by feverish minds for the purpose of making political hay out of a crime they had not necessarily committed.

Whatever the case, we at BARRICADA condemned, not only the crime against Sequeira from the outset, but also any attempt to justify the formation of death squads and punitive lists based on an alleged leftist and revolutionary position.

Unfortunately, in terms of the prestige which the Police had earned by partially clearing up the Sequeira murder, it was not that institution or the Army, but the very "Punitives" who took it upon themselves to unveil the entire plot of the crime.

BARRICADA's publication yesterday of a report from the French daily LE MONDE, in which former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] Lieutenant Colonel Frank Ibarra Silva, now chief of staff of the FPI, claims credit for Sequeira's murder and announces others, closes the circle of all previous questions concerning the existence and objectives of that underground organization.

Ibarra Silva reappeared at the head of some 20 armed individuals in the north, having successfully eluded the police cordon deployed to capture him, along with former military men Diego Javier Espinoza and German Lacayo, Sequeira's alleged assassins. His calculated reappearance at a time of maximum political polarization has objectively brought into question the Army's effectiveness in warning of the presence of the Punitive Front and neutralizing its actions with the same zeal it employs in monitoring rightist extremists.

Of equal concern is Ibarra's statement that for the past two years, i.e., while still an Army officer on active duty, he began organizing the FPI. Yesterday, General Humberto Ortega admitted that the Defense Information Directorate (DID) and Military Counterintelligence (CIM) had not detected the conspiratorial activities engaged in by that former officer, who endangered the institutionality of the Army and its respect for the law before becoming a political criminal.

It is not up to us to judge whether Ibarra Silva turned out to be a better conspirator than other experienced high officials in the DID and CIM. That is the job of Intelligence experts. Nevertheless, it is a fact that his action did great damage to the credibility of the Army and Police, even though the high commands of the two institutions seem not to have noticed the grave harm suffered.

Death threats from the FPI, like those issued and carried out by the rearmed elements of the right, pose a direct challenge to the system of political coexistence that we are trying to build in Nicaragua. Both represent the law of the jungle in opposition to a state of law diminished by countless crimes that go unpunished and more of which we are warned.

The Punitive Rightist Front has in fact existed for some time, spurred on by extremist politicians and communications media that shield themselves behind legality for the purpose of promoting violence. From "The Indomitable One" [El Indomable] to Northiel and including "The Jackal" [El Chacal], the Somocist preaching of Mayor Aleman, the Waslala slaughter, and the massacre of the Espinoza Alaniz family in El Guailo, Esteli, hundreds of Sandinists have been murdered selectively.

And yet, no aberration justifies applying the same method under the opposite political sign! Leftist terrorism is no less reactionary and repudiable than that of the right. The violence of the people into which the workers have occasionally been forced as the result of marginal socioeconomic situations or in order to protest the attacks of Somocism is unrelated to political assassination.

The right has so far shown that it is unable to put an end to excesses promoted within its ranks. This is confirmed by the silence of the Christian Democratic Union (UDC) in the face of evidence presented concerning the planning of terrorist activities by its deputy, Humberto Castilla, for the 28 February march. If the UDC had the political decency of which it boasts in its communiques, it would already have censured Castilla before he is kicked out of the National Assembly and dragged before the courts. After all, the solution to the violation of legality does not consist of leaving him to the mercy of the death threats of the Punitives, who will also have to answer to the courts.

In the face of political violence, the challenge to the left consists of adopting a position free of duplicity or ambiguities. As we said two months ago and now repeat: Sandinism, our nation's main political force, cannot remain silent in the face of an underground group that is calmly threatening to snatch its banners using terrorist methods.

Transcending any economic or political accord, what this country needs is a national pact against violence and impunity. I do not think it is too late. The blood spilled—the most recent drops in Esteli yesterday—requires that we join together in closing ranks against political violence.

## Panama

### Government Officials Accused of Illegal Use of State Funds

*PA3103004593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 1-A*

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Carles on 29 March presented to the Legislative Assembly's Government Commission a document that charges government officials—including Panama City Mayor Mayin Correa—with the alleged use of state resources for political campaigns.

Carles presented complaints against Mayor Correa for the daily use of her radio program "The Word"—between 0800 and 1000—"during which she campaigns for her Popular Alliance party."

Accused of using fax machines, government vehicles, and other state resources are George Weeden, an adviser to President Guillermo Endara; Darien Province Health Director Rolando Jimenez; Health Ministry Adviser Carlos Young Adames, and National Bingo Manager Marina Garcia.

Also accused of using government vehicles for tours to the countryside by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement are National Lottery Manager Luis Guillermo Casco Arias and Colon Free Zone Manager Jaime Ford Lara.

Legislator Gabriel Arosemena complained that Pedro Fernandez, regional director of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources in Cocle Province, and Penonome Mayor Domingo Valdes are using state resources to conduct their political campaigns.

"Most of these complaints have already been filed at the Electoral Prosecutor's Office. We will receive reports on the hearings, following which a decision will be made on whether or not to bring these people to trial," said Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes.

## Argentina

### Di Tella on Need for Agreement on Falkland Oil Prospecting

*PY3003181093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1406 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires 30 Mar (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella has said that without an agreement with Argentina, "no oil prospecting or exploitation can be conducted in the Malvinas Islands area no matter how much it hurts the British."

Di Tella has been in London since last week. This afternoon he will end a series of meetings with a talk—which is not included in his agenda—with his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd. No spectacular announcement or definitive agreement is expected.

Di Tella held significant meetings with various British groups in London, including one on 29 March with Rex Hunt, who was the Malvinas governor during the war with Argentina in April 1982.

Di Tella explained to Hunt, whom he included among the "hardliners," the Argentine position "on fishing, oil issues, trips to the islands, and the transference of sovereignty."

He said that Argentina wants to address these four topics "independently." He admitted that relations with Great Britain "have reached an impasse" and that "this will be overcome through talks."

In remarks to a local radio station, di Tella said: "It is important that our counterparts have admitted that there cannot be oil prospecting or exploitation without Argentine cooperation, no matter how it hurts the British."

Di Tella stated that the "letters of discomfort" sent by the British to the oil companies, "seek to adopt a strong position in negotiating the wealth of the South Atlantic and admitted that "we have adopted this attitude on the fishing issue."

He said that "international experts" admit that oil exploitation "is impossible" without an agreement with Argentina. He said that this is why the "letters of discomfort" were sent to oil companies, threatening to bring action before the international courts if work in the Malvinas area continues.

Di Tella said that the groups that represent the Malvinas' interests "maintain conflicting positions," as shown in the vote in the islands where a meeting with the Argentine representatives was rejected by five votes to three.

Di Tella said: "The hardliners do not listen much. I perceived, however, that they are not very intransigent." They know that the islanders have to hold dialogue, and this is reflected in reports in the British mass media."

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1229 GMT on 30 March in a similar report adds: "Firm support for the full restoration of bilateral relations is being observed within British society and the Kelpers themselves."]

### Cavallo Criticizes IDB Management at Hamburg Meeting

*PY3103031693 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 20*

[Text] Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday displayed his political prowess before a group of bankers gathered at the 34th Assembly of IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] Governors in Hamburg. He told them that "some economic deregulation measures are still delayed because of efforts to seek a consensus within the democratic Argentine society." In other words, he was telling them that Argentina could go faster, but that it is taking its time to seek agreements. For instance, it is known that Cavallo is against implementing the private retirement system through a decree and that he is willing to wait for Congress to pass the respective law.

Cavallo did not miss the opportunity to promote his own economic plan by outlining "the progress made by the Argentine economy during the past two years."

Cavallo also struck some sour notes by criticizing the IDB management. He charged that:

—For more than two and one-half years the IDB has unsuccessfully discussed the possibility of assisting the private sector.

—Borrowers have to pay a high cost in terms of resources as a result of the IDB delay in processing operations, its complicated process, and the obscurity prevailing in negotiations with the IDB.

—IDB stockholders need a bank that should serve them, not a bank to which they must serve.

Cavallo announced that Argentina will finally complete the Brady Plan operation next week through an exchange of documents and a deposit of guarantees. Among other things, he mentioned that:

—The year 1992 was one of stability and growth. Inflation during the past 12 months has stood at 13 percent.

—The gross domestic product grew by nearly 9 percent; industrial production grew at a rate higher than 15 percent; and fixed gross investment grew by 35 percent.

—The employment level remained on a rising trend, which, with a controlled inflation rate, has increased purchasing power by 9 percent (Fiel contends, however, that purchasing power dropped by 2.9 percent).

—It must be considered that all of this, like any other structural adjustment program, had to be implemented within a delicate political framework.

—Each specific economic measure requires a careful analysis because otherwise one would be running the risk of jeopardizing the entire program.

—Argentina believes it is necessary for the IDB to replenish its capital to implement a loan program on the order of $10 billion.
—We must strengthen the private sector of our countries through intraregional trade, and the IDB has experience in this field.
—A lack of explicit alternatives leads one to believe that the financial costs for preserving the environment will fall on the shoulders of developing countries.
—Industrialized countries have achieved their development by neglecting the environment. Developing countries are finding that their chances of achieving development are impaired by the need to preserve resources that are beginning to be exchausted by all of mankind.
—The IDB contribution to Latin American development is determined by the level of execution of loans and not by the ammounts approved by the board. Thus, a change of criterion is mandatory here.

### Government Joins International Scientific Project

*PY3003170093 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1020 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (TELAM)—Argentina has joined an international scientific project, called Gemini, through which it will gain access to research work on cosmology, the evolution of galaxies, the formation of stars, and the origin of the solar system.

Through a memorandum of understanding signed yesterday between Science and Technology Secretary Raul Matera and U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires James Walsh, Argentina will contribute 2.5 percent of the cost of constructing two eight-meter infrared telescopes.

In a communique, it is stated that the Gemini Project was devised for international cooperation and for the installation of two telescopes in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and in Cerro Pachon, Chile. These sites were selected for their excellent atmospheric conditions, the communique states.

### Cordoba Governor Says Government Undermining Administration

*PY3003224993 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 93 pp 1, 13*

[Text] (DYN)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz yesterday accused the national government of trying to undermine his administration and denounced the presence of "special intelligence groups" in this provincial capital, which he claimed were involved in increasing acts of violence leading to the arrest last weekend of 50 left-wing activists.

Angeloz said the groups "are carrying out a campaign to create a climate of insecurity in the province," and recognized they were taking advantage of the ongoing case of murdered Senator Regino Maders.

"I don't know who sent them," Angeloz said. "If I knew, I would make a public denunciation or certainly I would tell the President (Carlos Menem) that it was Tom, Dick or Harry."

The governor specifically ruled out the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] state intelligence agency being involved, or that Menem was directly responsible, although he called on Menem to take precautions against these groups acting in the province.

There is increasing concern in provincial government ranks about growing violence in the province. Angeloz blamed the incendiary device which destroyed three cars in a residential neighbourhood last week on the suspected "campaign." He also suggested the groups are driving around this capital in cars specially equipped with powerful microphones to listen to private conversations.

The Government Ministry and police department are currently drawing up plans to "neutralize" the escalating violence, Angeloz revealed.

Provincial Government Minister Luis Molinari Romero also denounced the recent acts on a local radio station yesterday, and considered the motives behind the special groups to be political. The violence became apparent last week when a dinner party attended by eminent scientists was broken into by armed robbers, and a former police officer, involved in the Maders case, was attacked while out driving.

Four people have been detained in connection with the dinner party attack last Wednesday [24 March] night in the Barrio Cerro de las Rosas district. Police chief Fernando Bornancini confirmed the arrests yesterday.

Last night, police announced that all but 10 of the 51 members of the leftist Patria Libre group, held after a mass arrest on Friday night [26 March], had been released yesterday. Six of this group, who were minors, were released on Sunday [28 March].

The mass arrest was justified because of a suspected violent discussion in the middle of a street outside a fund-raising dance held at the group's centre. According to police, the crowd then took refuge in the centre and bombarded women police officers with stones, bottles and sticks as they tried to enter the building.

The group blamed the incident on militants but also denounced "a mounted provocation against our organization by Governor Angeloz's police forces." Police made no discrimination in their arrests and took all of those inside the centre, including women with young children.

Bornancini said the arrests were based on a purely police matter, given that two women officers were attacked, and the ten members of the group who remain in detention are accused of causing light injuries and resisting authority.

Meanwhile, disruption from the violence continued yesterday as public offices, schools and bank buildings had to be abandoned because of bomb scares. On Sunday night, districts in the south of the province were left without electric power as 19 electricity cables were shot down. Nobody has claimed responsibility for this attack.

### Metalworker Leader Elected New CGT Secretary General

*PY3103005793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (NA)—Metalworker leader Naldo Brunelli today was elected new secretary general of the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] during a meeting that was not attended by union leader Jose Pedraza, a die-hard supporter of President Menem. Brunelli replaces Oscar Lescano as CGT secretary general.

Brunelli will preside over a meeting of the CGT executive council on 1 April to convey the CGT's rejection of the recent government decree on salaries and to decide to call a meeting of the CGT Central Committee, which could order coercive measures.

Brunelli stated today that his term "will be difficult because this is an election year and because the current economic plan has provoked two years of salary freezes, ignored workers, and caused tensions to rise."

Asked about the possibility that the CGT will resume its plan of struggle, Brunelli said he is not "a combative leader," but "an analytic one." He made it clear, however, that "when I feel cornered, I fight. The people feel cornered because they can no longer afford to eat on what they earn now." [passage omitted]

### CNEA Chairman Denies Surcharge Payment To Metallurgical Company

*PY3103004293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1746 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 March (TELAM)—Manuel Mondino, chairman of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), has emphatically denied that the agency he heads paid a surcharge to "Pescarmona Inc.," a metallurgical company, for fitting out the Atucha-2 nuclear power plant. He said that the court of national audit "did not object to the renegotiation."

Mondino thus refuted an article published today in the Buenos Aires daily PAGINA/12, which contends that "notwithstanding the objections raised by the court of national audit, the CNEA paid a surcharge amounting to more than $5 million to Pescarmona Inc."

Visibly annoyed, Mondino told TELAM that "the PAGINA/12 newspaper is not written in ink but rather in venom and gall" and explained that he tried to telephone its director, Jorge Lanata but to no avail, adding that he just wanted to "discuss things and had no intention of bringing a criminal action against him."

He washed his hands of the whole affair by saying that it dates back to 1984, when the CNEA was headed by the late chairman Alberto Constantini. He further stated that both the accounting office and the nuclear power plants management office of the CNEA have sent an answer to the court of national audit and that the latter "was satisfied with the answer."

Mondino said that it all started with a charge filed by "a member of the CNEA professional staff surnamed Marineau, who did so because his contract with the CNEA was not renewed."

Mondino conceded that the CNEA officials who renegotiated the supply of equipment for Atucha-2 are still working for the CNEA, though he made it clear that "they do not face any criminal charges."

He explained that the renegotiation with Pescarmona Inc. only involved the supply of steam generators for Atucha 2, which was at that time under construction.

To this effect, he made it clear that the new $18 million business deal that the government finalized with Pescarmona Inc. "has no relation whatsoever with the previous one, as it provides for the purchase of new technical equipment for several power plants."

Mondino told Radio Continental Network this morning that the foregoing allegation took place in 1984 to 1985 "during the Radical Party administration," adding that it must be part of a "retrospective" probe that the aforementioned newspaper made "because the elections will be held this year."

To conclude, Mondino said that "we had a clean record when we came to office and we intend to continue having a clean record when we leave office."

## Chile

### Bomb Explodes in Valparaiso; Other Deactivated in Santiago

*PY3003203293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] A bomb exploded at the stock market building in Valparaiso at 1025 this morning. The explosion caused great alarm but no victims or considerable material damage. The bomb was placed in a bathroom on the second floor.

At the time of the explosion there were 30 employees in the building but no commercial activity. The explosion occurred while Carabineros specialized forces were checking the car of a local radio station political commentator who received a telephone call saying that a bomb had been placed.

Official reports stated that the bomb contained 1 kg of ANFO [Ammonium Nitrate-Fuel Oil blasting agent] and a slow fuse. Pamphlets alluding to the subversive Lautaro Group were disseminated at the site.

GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] personnel at approximately 1040 this morning deactivated a bomb in the gardens of the Hyatt Hotel on the corner of Kennedy and Alonso de Cordoba Streets in Santiago. The site was cordoned off after a suspicious package containing a bomb was found. Details of the components of the bomb were not revealed.

### Radioactive Ophthalmologic Instrument Stolen

*PY3003150593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Unidentified individuals last night stole a small bag containing a highly radioactive ophthalmologic probe from a car parked on Los Leones Avenue and Lota Street in Providencia District.

Manuel Farina Riveros, a traveling medicine salesman from Halcon Laboratories, reported the serious incident to the 19th Carabineros Precinct shortly after 2100 last night.

Farina explained that the small bag containing the radioactive material was in his private car and that the criminals stole it in a quick action. It was to have been delivered today to the Jose Joaquin Aguirre hospital.

Farina warned that, if mishandled, it could cause serious harm, even death. The police explained that the probe is a 40 cm pencil-shaped metal instrument. It has a glass point at one end and a rubber stopper in the other. The radioactive element will leak if the rubber stopper is removed.

It has been reported that Carabineros are searching for this instrument to avoid serious damage.

### Instrument Reportedly 'Not Hazardous'

*PY3103132993 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93*

[Text] The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission and the director of the Jose Joaquin Aguirre Hospital of Santiago have reported that the ophthalmologic probe stolen on the night of 29 March is not radioactive. It was stolen from travelling salesman Manuel Farina Riveros on Los Leones Avenue and Lota Street, Providencia District in Santiago.

It was explained at the hospital that the probe is part of an ophthalmologic echograph that had been sent to the United States for repair. It was also reaffirmed that the probe is not hazardous.

Pablo Ferro, Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission Radiology Department chief, stated that the probe is not radioactive, that it is an ultrasonic instrument used to detect eye problems.

## Colombia

### Security Identifies Escobar's Chief of Intelligence

*PA3003221493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] It was learned on 30 March that Gustavo Adolfo Gutierrez Arrubla is Pablo Escobar's chief of intelligence. Gutierrez is a lawyer and former candidate for the post of mayor in La Estrella, Antioquia Department. The Administrative Department of Security has accused him of planning many kidnappings.

### * Update on Emergency Energy Plan Implementation

*93SM0187A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 1C*

[Article by Jaime Mejia Mazuera, editor of EL TIEMPO: "One Year of Energy Agony"]

[Text] Twelve months ago, the country was suddenly plunged into darkness. The blister of an illness that had been incubating for years in the electrical sector had burst. The system did not have the capacity to satisfy the energy demand during summer conditions.

It was the start of one of the most difficult tests the Colombians have had to undergo in recent years. People had to change their most commonplace habits. Businesses had to reschedule their working hours, and they incurred increased costs.

Even the clock was reset. The government advanced solar time by 60 minutes so as to extend the daylight hours at the end of the working day. This was in effect from 1 May 1992 to 6 February of this year, when clocks were returned to solar time. People became accustomed to seeing the sun at seven o'clock [1900] in the evening.

The government's public image suffered a serious decline. After all, the lack of electricity directly affected each and every Colombian, and the responsibility rested squarely on this and past governments.

In addition, the technical level of the so-called "brains" of the electrical sector—who for years had shaped and implemented the policy in this sector, and whose judgment no one so much as dared to question—was itself called into question.

There ensued a drama that included housewives, children, small and medium-sized businesses, and some government officials whose professionalism was questioned and whose careers were adversely affected by it.

Worst of all, the situation, in part, persists. The country is still heavily dependent on water, because the composition of the sector's installed capacity is still that of a year ago: 78 percent hydroelectric, 22 percent thermoelectric.

What purpose, then, has the Emergency Plan served? Actually, this program was not intended to modify

significantly the composition of the Colombian electrical system. Its primary objective was to ward off a crisis in the shortest time possible.

The plan was partially successful, in that it managed to reduce the required energy savings from 26 percent to 15 percent. Possibly, however, the economy's ability to respond to the crisis was greater than had been assumed. Although there are no exact figures as to the impact of the rationing, it was clearly less than the country expected it to be.

At least, that is what the economic growth figures indicate. Last year, despite predictions made by Fedesarrollo [Higher Education and Development Foundation] that growth would not exceed 2 percent, the economy's total production of goods and services, or GDP [gross domestic product], grew by 3.6 percent in real terms.

Of course, the 1992 increase in GDP does not reflect the real impact of the rationing on small- and medium-sized industry. This sector contributes little to the GDP, but it is vital as a generator of jobs and social well-being.

**Plan's Failures**

The key elements of the plan were, in order of importance: the Guavio hydroelectric plant; interconnection with Venezuela; drilling barges; the Buenaventura, Termocartagena, and Chinu Turbogases units; and the Empresa Colombiana de Petroleos [Colombian Oil Company] based in Gualanday (Tolima).

These would provide the system with 560,000 kilowatts of additional power. In itself, this capacity was not sufficient to cover the deficit, but the government banked on the coming of a rainy spell that could make up the shortfall.

Since the first part of the plan was not carried out to completion and the rainfall was insufficient, rationing was continued, although with substantial letups. Serious problems arose in connection with the planned projects, such as the barges and the Buenaventura units, which never delivered within the planned time frames, and were involved in a scandal.

**The Emergency Plan**

**(Projects Planned for First Half of 1993)**

| Project | Capacity (Kilowatts) | Starting Date |
|---|---|---|
| Ecopetrol plant in Yumbo | 26,000 | February 1993 |
| Electranta's Union II | 2,500 | February 1993 |
| Electranta's Riomar | 10,800 | March 1993 |
| Pereira's Belmonte E.P. | 1,000 | March 1993 |
| Chinu's Turbogases | 33,000 | March 1993 |
| Buenaventura units | 50,000 | April 1993 |

**The Emergency Plan (Continued)**

**(Projects Planned for First Half of 1993)**

| Project | Capacity (Kilowatts) | Starting Date |
|---|---|---|
| Third Guavio unit | 200,000 | March 1993 |
| Fourth Guavio unit | 200,000 | May 1993 |
| Fifth Guavio unit | 200,000 | June 1993 |
| Total new installed capacity | 722,000 | To July |

**Emergency Plan Delays**

| Project | Capacity (Kilowatts) | Originally Planned Starting Date |
|---|---|---|
| Cartagena barges | 60,000 | August 1992 |
| Buenaventura units | 50,000 | October 1992 |
| Ecopetrol plant in Yumbo | 26,000 | December 1992 |
| Palenque 5 | 20,000 | December 1992 |
| Proelectrica | 60,000 | January 1993 |
| Other projects | 31,000 | Various dates |
| Capacity not installed | 247,000 | |

Although failure to complete or deliver was the common denominator in 15 of the 60 projects comprising the Emergency Plan, the Guavio hydroelectric plant's performance and the interconnection with Venezuela enabled a reduction of rationing by half, from a planned 26 percent to 12 percent of total consumption.

Delays prevented the entry into operation of a capacity of 247,000 kilowatts of energy, which would have covered a substantial part of the system's needed capacity to supply the demand.

**Blackout To Continue?**

The level of credibility of any prediction as to the future supply of electricity in Colombia is necessarily low, because the system continues to be dependent on the behavior of rainfall. But a few estimates are possible.

To minimize the risk of predictions as to what may occur, it must be assumed that the drought this year will be equal to that of 1992; that is, a rainfall below historical averages.

Based on this assumption, how long is rationing likely to have to be continued? The answer is not comforting. The rationing of electricity is likely to continue throughout this year, although its level may be reduced considerably during the second quarter.

This estimate finds its first support in the delay the Emergency Plan has had to accept. To date, at the

halfway point of its planned duration, only 36 percent of the additional capacity it was to provide has been completed.

The enterprises are caught up in a race against time, in that the projects remaining, to wrap up the Emergency Plan must be completed by next January.

According to the timetable drawn up by engineer German Pereira, who until a few days ago was the Emergency Plan manager, the probability is high that 772,000 kilowatts of new operating capacity will be added to the system during the first half of this year.

This would enable a considerable reduction of rationing. But the fact is that 1 million kilowatts more are needed to cover the sector's capacity shortage, with a reasonable margin of security. This means having to wait until the end of the year. The government estimates that by the end of December the crisis will have been surmounted, even assuming the worst of summers.

These forecasts, however, are based on the assumption that, by June, Guavio, with its five units, will be operating at full capacity. Many knowledgeable persons consider this a highly optimistic assumption.

**With Rains**

Should the country return to its historic rainfall level, the crisis would be completely resolved over the next three months. With the country's reservoirs at average levels, the hydroelectric plants could rapidly generate the needed coverage, which amounts to 12 percent of the demand.

How much water is needed to eliminate rationing? According to the experts, an intensive rainfall throughout April and May would suffice to ensure a sufficient flow from the country's rivers to meet the average needs of the electrical system; that is to ensure the arrival of sufficient water to generate 50 percent of the country's daily energy needs.

Last year, the country did without 5,174 gigawatt-hours of energy. In other words, it did without the energy necessary to keep 50 billion light bulbs lit for one hour. That is, Colombians used 14 percent less electricity than they needed.

The possible recurrence of the "El Nino" phenomenon does not augur well for the forecasts. It would mean an indefinite prolongation of rationing.

**Dark Financial Outlook**

Rationing took a sizable bite out of the electrical sector's finances. What was gained by the refinancing provided under the emergency energy plan was lost, in part, by lowered energy sales volume.

Although the government introduced adjustments in the form of capitalization and refinancing of some entities, the sector's revenue declined last year by 157.5 billion pesos, down 15 percent from normal annual levels.

This year, the impact on revenue is expected to be less. The FEN [National Energy Financing Company] estimates that the drop in revenue will, nevertheless, amount to some $70 billion (50 billion pesos), and plans to invest approximately $234 million, or over 175 billion pesos, in the Emergency Plan.

To conclude, the situation of the sector's enterprises is not the best from the standpoint of implementing the expansion plan that is needed to ensure the supply of electrical energy for the intermediate and long terms. Thus, rain though it may, and rid ourselves of the blackout though we may, the electrical energy crisis will not have ended.

## Paraguay

### President Reaffirms OAS of 'Clear, Honest' Elections

*PY3003160893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 5*

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez on 29 March reaffirmed to OAS observers his commitment that the 9 May presidential elections will be clear and honest. This announcement was made by Ruben Perina, the coordinator of the OAS observers delegation who led the delegation that met with Rodriguez at Government Palace.

Perina said that the OAS observers are very satisfied with the statement by Rodriguez, who also referred to the current political situation in Paraguay. Perina said: "Rodriguez reaffirmed his full support and his commitment that the 9 May elections will be clear and honest. His statement encourages us and greatly expedites the delegation's task."

Asked about the threat by ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] President Blas N. Riquelme [who said that the elections would be won by assault], Perina said that Rodriguez disapproved it.

The OAS delegation head said that arrangements for the general elections fulfill the observers' expectations and stated that he has full confidence that "the elections will be clean, calm, and honest."

Perina said that concerns over possible irregularities or frauds are normal in an electoral process.

### Government Delegates Instructed Against 'Proselytizing'

*PY3003182093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 4*

[Excerpt] Interior Ministry Secretary General Enrique Riera Jr. yesterday reported that Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche has given clear instructions to government delegates to "totally avoid " proselytizing for the 9 May elections.

Riera reported that government delegates yesterday held a routine three-hour meeting at the Interior Ministry to discuss the main problems facing the government delegate offices.

Riera said that the interior minister gave specific instructions to the government delegates to avoid proselytizing "because we are working for all Paraguayans and not for a given segment of our society."

Riera added that, concerning political matters, government delegates have always been told to observe the law during the upcoming general elections.

The Interior Ministry secretary general reported that the government delegates expressed concern about their commitment to safeguard the elections as there are problems involving communications, the distance between the balloting stations, and the lack of funds. [passage omitted]

### Colorado Movement Leader Says Movement Experiencing 'Repression'

*PY3003211693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 6*

[Text] Colorado Reconciliation Movement leader Luis Maria Argana said yesterday that his movement is experiencing a harsh, cruel, and stubborn repression. He reported that the government continues to fire government officials who support his movement or is arbitrarily transferring them from their posts to force them to resign.

The Colorado Party politician said it is not necessary for Coloradoism to lose in the 9 May elections for government officials to be harassed. He added that in the past four months the government has fired more than 1,500 officials just for the sake of sympathizing with his movement. He said that he skeptically assesses the current electoral process because [Colorado Party President Blas N.] "Riquelme straightforwardly announced that the old custom of deceiving and cheating the people's sovereignty will be reinstated and this, in the long run, will create a situation that will shake the entire Republic."

#### Meeting With U.S. Democrats

Yesterday afternoon Argana was visited by a U.S. Democrats Association delegation. After the meeting, the politician told journalists that the delegation's visit reflects its interest in the national political events and his movement's importance. He added that his visitors admitted his movement's victory in the Colorado Party primaries and that they were surprised that his movement had been displaced from the current process.

### Foreign Ministry Representative to Yacyreta Agency Named

*PY3003203093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 19*

[Excerpt] Through Decree No. 16882, signed by President Andres Rodriguez, the government yesterday appointed Dr. Fernando Augusto Ozazu Mussio as Foreign Ministry representative to the Yacyreta Binational Agency. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### Fujimori Rules Out Moving Presidential Elections Ahead

*PA3003204493 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori ruled out any interest in moving the presidential elections ahead to 1994, as a group in the legislature had claimed. Fujimori said the presidential elections will take place just as the 1979 Constitution specifies. At a news conference with foreign reporters accredited in Peru, the president did not rule out the possibility of running in 1995. He said: What concerns me more than being reelected is to wipe out the guerrillas and leave Peru in a state of peace before ending my presidential term.

Regarding the pardon proposal for the military officers who took part in the 1992 failed coup attempt, President Fujimori said that the pardon is not a priority for the people. That matter can wait, the president said.

Foreign reporters departed from Government Palace a few minutes ago. The local press had no access to the president's statements.

### Further on Fujimori Comments

*PA3103154193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 93*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has rejected the possibility of holding the 1995 elections at an earlier date. He said he does no regret having carried out the self-inflicted coup of 5 April. The president granted an interview to foreign reporters in Peru and said he felt the powers granted to him by the Constitution Commission to dissolve the Congress were appropriate.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Some observers have said the constitution presently being drafted strengthens the office of the president and weakens those institutions that could guarantee a true balance of power in the country.

[Fujimori] The Congress is discussing various options, one of which is almost a presidential system and another that is a parliamentary system. There may even be some sort of mix. That is the congress' prerogative. As the current president, one who has gone through some difficult stages of confrontation not only among the

government branches but also in confronting the country's problems, I believe it is necessary for this authority to exist, as it does in many other democracies.

[Reporter] You recently reaffirmed statements you made in 1992 about the failure of the fight against drugs in the United States. The U.S. Government maintains that it will direct its attention more toward internal aid, that is, to addicts, than to the aid it gives the coca-producing countries. In light of that announcement, how do you foresee the fight against drugs in the coming months?

[Fujimori] I would reaffirm what I said during the meeting in San Antonio, Texas: The fight against drugs was not effective. It needs to be redefined; in essence, it has been a failure. The figures clearly demonstrate that. What can we tell the public when we see that their are millions of young addicts and the number is still growing? What can we tell the public when the number of acres sown with coca leaves continues to be the same or greater? Conclusion: failure. Why should we hide the word? I suppose, as I do not have specific information, that the new U.S. President's policy will focus more attention on demand. That is good if the policy does in fact reduce demand.

[Reporter] It would seem, even with the removal of many judges in 1992 after the coup, that there have been no major changes.

[Fujimori] The changes in the judicial system are not yet complete. The complete judicial reform plan was not carried out during the last 10 or 12 months. We were unable to complete it. Now we are against any political power appointing judges and justices; that means any power of state, whether it is the legislative or executive power. [end recording]

## Uruguay

### Finance Minister Criticizes 'European Fortress' at IDB Meeting

*PY3103020493 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 93*

[Text] The European fortress was today the indirect target of criticisms by Uruguayan Economy and Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas in his speech at the 34th annual assembly of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

He termed as a strange and dangerous irony the fact that simultaneously with one of the greatest economic and social transformations in world history, Europe is on the brink of a protectionist commercial abyss. This is an absurd contradiction and its harmful consequences will affect all countries, though in an unfair manner, punishing more harshly the developing nations and neutralizing the positive effects of their adjustment policies, he said.

De Posadas made an analysis of the recent development of the Uruguayan economy, stressing the strong increase in investments last year, the market-opening processes, and the progressive integration within the Common Market of the South.

Although there is much to be done, Uruguay is in a better position and with better prospectives than three years ago. De Posadas also stressed Montevideo's support for the IDB plans of paying more attention in the future to social policies. He called for greater flexibility in operational practices. He also stressed the important role played by the IDB and by the Inter-American Investment Corporation in promoting the development of private investments.

### Changes Noted in External Debt Profile

*PY3003212593 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 25 Mar 93 pp 20, 21*

[Excerpts] Uruguay's main creditors are no longer international banks or multilateral credit agencies such as the IMF, the World Bank [IBRD], or the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] but rather holders of treasury bonds and bills and of bank accounts in foreign currency, many of whom live in Uruguay, to whom 60 percent of the external debt quoted in foreign currency is owed.

This trend became more marked in 1992, during which interest payments were reduced. The profile of Uruguay's external debt changed over the last few years; it was in part rescheduled, conditions and maturity structure were changed, and interest rates declined on the international market.

Notwithstanding a steady decline in interest payments and considerable debt relief achieved during this administration, both variables continue to weigh heavily on the country's economy. The latter is no longer the same either—the gross domestic product [GDP] has grown, and exports have increased, thus easing both the debt burden and debt service requirements.

According to the latest available data—September 1992—Uruguay's total gross external debt (public and private) amounts to $7.359 billion, which represents 66 percent of the country's GDP. In 1985, the external debt represented more than 100 percent of the GDP. If assets (international reserves and other assets held by nonresidents) are to be subtracted from the total gross external debt, the latter drops to $2.195 billion. [passage omitted]

Public gross external debt rose from $2.70 billion in 1982 to $4.30 billion in 1989. In 1992 it fell to $4.14 billion. Public total debt quoted in foreign currency crept up from $3.25 billion in 1982 to $6.50 billion in 1989 and to $6.80 billion in 1992.

The change in the debt make-up answered the need to offset the lack of fresh loans granted by international banks following the 1982 crisis. Disbursements were

generally made to repay old debts within debt-restructuring agreements. Before the debt-rescheduling agreement of 1991, the debt contracted with foreign banks represented 23 percent of the country's total external debt quoted in foreign currency compared with nearly 50 percent in 1982. By September 1992, it shrank to only 16 percent.

In 1982, obligations represented 13 percent of the total debt in foreign currency; by September 1992, the percentage rose to 29 percent. With regard to obligations, T-bills (six month to one year maturity) are being replaced by T-bonds (eight year maturity).

Account holders with official banks have become Uruguay's leading creditors to whom nearly 60 percent of the external debt in foreign currency is owed.

Even though the amount of the debt contracted with international organizations has varied over the last few years, it has ranged between 13 and 17 percent of the total debt over the last few years. The IDB is Uruguay's main creditor among international organizations ($487 million), followed by the IBRD ($463 million) and the IMF, to whom $400 million were owed in 1987. This figure dropped to $67 million in September 1992.

The data for the debt contracted with international organizations from 1980 to 1989 were obtained from the paper "The Uruguayan State and Its Creditors: An Effective Strategy?" written by BCU [Central Bank of Uruguay] economists Mario Bergara, Andres Masoller, and Graziella Romiti for a workshop on economics organized by the BCU in 1990.

As a result of low interest rates prevailing on the international market and debt rescheduling agreements (reduction of principal and interest rates) over the last two years, interest payments were reduced considerably.

Interest paid on Uruguay's public external debt amounted to some $270 million (2.4 percent of the GDP) in 1992 compared with $325 million in 1991 (3.4 percent of the GDP), and $407 million in 1990 (4.9 percent of GDP).

If compared with exports, the main source of foreign exchange resources, interest paid on the public external debt represented 39 percent of export earnings in 1985 and 16 percent in 1992.

In 1991, transfers abroad in interest payments and debt repayment attained an all-time record of $875 million ($550 million for debt repayment obligations) compared with $350 million in 1992.

Of the total $4.140 billion of public external debt, 83 percent correspond to the government's nonfinancial sector. The number one debtor within the central government is the Treasury ($734 million), followed by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works ($237 million), and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries ($60 million).

UTE [General Administration of State Electric Power and Telephone] is the number one debtor among state-owned enterprises with a total debt amounting to $540 million. Other major debtors are the Uruguayan section of Salto Grande Mixed Technical Commission, with a total debt of $87 million, and Antel [National Telecommunications Administration], which has a total debt of $65 million.

With regard to the financial sector, the BCU debt adds up to $171 million, that of the Uruguayan Republic Bank totals $390 million, while the Mortgage Bank debt amounts to $144 million.

The maturity structure of the total public debt—which totals $4.140 billion—is as follows: 33 percent is repayable this year, 20 percent will be repayable between 1995 and 1997; 39 percent becomes due after 1997; and deposits of nonresidents in official banks, which amount to 8 percent of the total public debt, do not have a due date.

### Progressive Center Executive Board Established

*PY3103022293 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 4*

[Excerpt] The National Executive Board of the Progressive Center has been established. From now on it will have 10 members and its first great objective will be to look for the necessary agreements to conduct a substantial change in the structures of Uruguayan society.

The executive board comprises Senator Alberto Zumaran, Mayors Rodolfo Nin Novoa and Irineu Riet Correa, Deputy Jorge Coronel, Jose Luis Veiga, Luis E. Chalela, Eduardo Piazze, Gaston Pereira, Javier Garcia, and Lujan Oller. It's main objective is to prepare a national congress that will set the political-electoral guidelines for 1994. [passage omitted]

## Venezuela

### Electoral Council Decides To Hold Elections for Sucre, Barinas Governors

*PA3103023793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, Political Administrative Court on 30 March decided to hold new elections for governor in the states of Sucre and Barinas. Justice Cecilia Sosa made the announcement, saying that irregularities were detected in more than 50 percent of the vote tally sheets in Sucre and Barinas.

Sosa added that now the CSE must decide the date for the next elections. She says that this decision establishes a very important precedent, as the Venezuelan people will have confidence in the election results.

[Begin Sosa recording] The court urges the Attorney General to determine who is responsible for what happened. This includes CSE members as well as officials and other participants in those elections. [end recording]

### Foreign Minister Says Citizens Do Not Want Coup

*PA3003210193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] The Venezuelan people do not think a coup d'etat will resolve the crisis, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said as he departed from Miraflores Palace.

[Begin Ochoa recording] The situation in Venezuela is certainly clearing up as the December elections draw closer. The political parties and electoral groups are choosing their candidates. The people, I am sure, are waiting calmly to see what possibilities exist concerning the election. I don't think, however, that anyone is thinking of a coup at this time. [end recording]

### Military Court Issues Arrest Warrants Against Coup Attempt Leaders

*PA3003221193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1625 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] Caracas, 30 Mar (EFE)—In response to a civilian judge's order to release the leaders of the 27 November 1992 coup attempt, on 30 March the Venezuelan Military Court issued arrest warrants against them. In Venezuela, the Military Court is a permanent tribunal that handles cases involving soldiers. In this particular case, it also prosecutes a number of civilians accused of "military rebellion."

The Military Court's decision affects the leaders of the attempted coup, Rear Admirals Hernan Gruber Odreman and Luis Cabrera Aguirre, who are being held at San Carlos garrison in northern Caracas.

Virginia Contreras, the counsel for the defense, told EFE that these arrest warrants, "issued today before dawn," represent interference with a 29 March constitutional court order that released 52 persons, including Gruber and Cabrera, who had been held in custody for the 27 November events.

Constitutional judge Braulio Sanchez had accepted a habeas corpus recourse introduced by the defense counsels of the coup attempt perpetrators. Sanchez ordered them released because, in his opinion, the legal detention term established by Article 6 of the Constitution's temporary regulations was violated.

According to this article, the court handling an arrest has 96 hours, one week if the crime is serious, to decide whether the arrest of a person is legal. Lawyer Contreras told EFE that the military court's decision is irregular because it was made after the legal term had expired.

The Military Court released 25 other detainees, including guerrilla leader Douglas Bravo, on grounds that the Court did not find "sufficient evidence." Contreras said this decision is ambiguous because it does not entail the full freedom of the 25 detainees, who can be arrested again because the case has not been closed.

The lawyer said that the Military Court disobeyed a constitutional mandate by refusing to honor a habeas corpus recourse accepted by Judge Sanchez and instead issuing arrest warrants.

"The judge holds constitutional rank and all of his rulings must be immediately accepted, regardless of whether one agrees with them," Contreras said.

### Judge Grants Habeas Corpus Writ to Coupists

*PA3103034993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Text] The ruling by 26th Criminal Judge Braulio Sanchez to grant the habeas corpus writ requested on behalf of 52 civilians and servicemen who were arrested in the wake of the 27 November attempted coup has stunned the country.

As is known, on that day an armed operation was conducted to abolish the system of freedoms that Venezuelans have chosen in a democratic and sovereign manner. A large number of civilians, in addition to the soldiers who were persuaded to conduct that senseless operation, were wounded in the coup attempt. On that occasion, Venezolana de Television was a target of the viciousness and madness of the rebelling soldiers, as were other government buildings. On 27 November the Venezuelan people proved their support for democracy. This decision was confirmed a week later on 6 December at the polls, when the democratic forces dealt a resounding blow to the minority that supported the coup. On the night of 29 March, the Military Court issued warrants for the arrests of the persons implicated in the undemocratic actions of last November.

### Teachers Hold March To Demand Pay Increase

*PA3103155993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Mar 93*

[Report by Annery Gonzalez]

[Text] Approximately 6,000 teachers accompanied by a student delegation left the Paraiso union house early on the morning of 30 March and headed for Caracas Plaza. For the first time in a long time the state security corps did not intervene. The agents remained alert in case of any unforeseen developments. The teachers are demanding a pay increase and a consensus on the criteria to be employed during the discussion of the collective bargaining agreement.

[Begin recording] [Rafael Chacon, member of the Teachers' Rank and File Movement] We are demanding a just contract. We are against the Education Ministry's offer because it is only offers a 15-percent increase this year and 20 percent the next year. Why are we against it?

A teacher currently earns 14,000 bolivares. With the increase, we will only be earning 16,000 bolivares.

[Teacher Freddy Dominguez] We are fighting on two fronts. We want a pay increase and a fair collective bargaining agreement. We are also against the dictatorship of a union that calls a strike without consulting the rank and file. [end recording]

On 1 April teachers in the 11 zones of the Caracas metropolitan area are going to devote their time to informing students about their contract problems.